

or the continuance of slavery beyond the generations which shall be living on the thirty-first day of December, one thousand, eight hundred; all persons born after that day being hereby declared free. (From a proposed Constitution for Virginia, 1783. F. III., 324.)

SLAVERY.—After the year 1800 of the Christian era, there should be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in any of the said states, otherwise than in punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been convicted to have been personally guilty. (From a clause in a report to Congress for a plan of government for western territory, 1784. F. III., 432.)*

SLAVERY.—In Maryland, I do not find such a disposition to begin a redress of this enormity (slavery) as in Virginia. This is the next State to which we may turn our eyes for the interesting spectacle of justice in conflict with avarice and oppression; a conflict wherein the sacred side is gaining daily recruits, from the influx into office of young men grown and growing up. These have sucked in the principles of liberty as it were with their mothers' milk; and it is to them I look with anxiety to (turn the fate of this question. (Written from Paris to Dr. Richard Price, 1785. F. IV., 83.)

SLAVERY.—What a stupendous, what an incomprehensible! machine is man! Who can endure toil, famine, stripes, imprisonment and death itself in vindication of his own liberty, and the next moment be deaf to all those motives whose power supported him through his trial, and inflict on his fellow men a bondage, one hour of which is fraught with more misery than ages of that which he rose in rebellion to oppose. But we mustj wait with patience the workings of an overruling providence and hope that that is preparing the deliverance of these our suffering brethren. When the measure of their tears shall be full, when their groans shall have involved heaven itself in darkness, doubtless a god of justice will awaken to their distress, and by diffusing light and liberality among their oppressors, or

*If this clause had been adopted, slavery would have been excluded from all the admitted States of the Union. It failed by one vote.